

Amendments to the Claims

1-44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) A method for routing calls in a communications system, comprising:

receiving a call object in a persistent store identifying an incoming phone call for a recipient, wherein the persistent store allows insertion of objects without loss of attributes and has a notification service;

translating the call object into a smart secretary object that the persistent store can operate upon;

identifying the recipient from the smart secretary object;

determining if an object exists within a community that includes the persistent store that provides preferences for the recipient;

if an object does not exist that provides preferences for the recipient:

translating the smart secretary object to a call object for a phone associated with the recipient; and

ringing the phone associated with the recipient; and

if an object does exist that provides preferences for the recipient, routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, the method further comprising examining call data associated with a call to avoid routing loops.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein routing the call according to preferences of the recipient further comprises:

routing the call to a different recipient;

determining if an object exists that provides preferences for the different recipient;

and

routing the call according to preferences for the different recipient.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, the method further comprising returning to the preferences of the recipient after completing the routing of the call according to the preferences of the different recipient, if there is no answer at any numbers identified by the preferences of the different recipient.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient further comprises routing the call sequentially to numbers identified by the preferences of the recipient.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient further comprises broadcasting the call to number identified by the preferences of the recipient.

51. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing a program to route calls in a communication system, the program comprising:

receiving a call object in a persistent store identifying an incoming phone call for a recipient, wherein the persistent store allows insertion of objects without loss of attributes and has a notification service;

translating the call object into a smart secretary object that the persistent store can operate upon;

identifying the recipient from the smart secretary object;

determining if an object exists within a community that includes the persistent store that provides preferences for the recipient;

if an object does not exist that provides preferences for the recipient:

translating the smart secretary object to a call object for a phone associated with the recipient; and

ringing the phone associated with the recipient; and

if an object does exist that provides preferences for the recipient, routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient.

52. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the program comprises examining call data associated with a call to avoid routing loops.

53. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein routing the call according to preferences of the recipient further comprises:

routing the call to a different recipient;

determining if an object exists that provides preferences for the different recipient;

and

routing the call according to preferences for the different recipient.

54. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the program comprises returning to the preferences of the recipient after completing the routing of the call according to the preferences of the different recipient, if there is no answer at any numbers identified by the preferences of the different recipient.

55. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient further comprises routing the call sequentially to numbers identified by the preferences of the recipient.

56. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient further comprises broadcasting the call to number identified by the preferences of the recipient.

57. (new) A device for routing calls in a communications system, comprising:

means for receiving a call object in a persistent store identifying an incoming phone call for a recipient, wherein the persistent store allows insertion of objects without loss of attributes and has a notification service;

means for translating the call object into a smart secretary object that the persistent store can operate upon;

means for identifying the recipient from the smart secretary object;

means for determining if an object exists within a community that includes the persistent store that provides preferences for the recipient;

means for translating the smart secretary object to a call object for a phone associated with the recipient and ringing the phone associated with the recipient if an object does not exist that provides preferences for the recipient; and

means for routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient, if an object does exist that provides preferences for the recipient,.

58. (new) The device of claim 57, the device further comprising a means for examining call data associated with a call to avoid routing loops.